THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) available information indicates that the deaths due to consumption of spurious liquor had gone up from 871 in 1993 to 961 in 1994. Information pertaining to the subsequent period is not readily available. It is essentially for the State Governments to prevent manufacture of hooch through constant and effective vigil by their enforcement agencies including police.

Navy Patrolling in Kutch

2690. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite patrolling in the seas off the coast of Kutch the Indian Navy failed to check smuggling and anti-India activities of ISI;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for purposeful patrolling in Kutch border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) There have not been any reported violations of the sea routes nor any anti-India ISI activities in the Kutch region since the institution of 'Operation SWAN'

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The patrolling and surveillance of the Kutch border areas is being carried out jointly by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard supported by the Central Agencies and the State Government of Gujarat.

Modernisation of Air Force

2691. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the speech of Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Sareen, published in daily 'Jagran' dated 27th November, 1996 in which he emphasized the modernisation of Indian Air Force in view of the ongoing upheavals at international level; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the modernisation of Air Force in view of the increasing threat to the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Modernisation of the IAF is a continous process and necessary steps, in pursuance thereof, have been taken, keeping in view current as well as futuristic threat perceptions. These include, *inter alia* mid life upgradation of some of the existing weapon systems/aircraft to enhance their operational capability, acquisition of additional air defence/air superiority as well as multirole aircraft to maintain the current force level for a longer period, and induction of state-of-the-art multirole aircraft to cater for retirement of ageing combat fleet in the IAF's inventory. The Government has also taken steps to strengthen electronic warfare armour of the IAF as well as provision of precision guided munitions to enhance accuracy and lethality of its strike power. IAF's combat aircraft and attack helicopter are also being equipped with night attack capability to enable them to operate in both day and night conditions.

Favourism in Allotment of Shops by NDMC

2692. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDMC have constructed a shopping complex at Baird Lane, New Delhi known as Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place;

(b) if so, whether the said shopping complex was constructed to adjust all the shops existing on the Baird Lane;